



## Minnesota's 4th District **E-Report!**

**Congresswoman Betty McCollum**

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



OCTOBER 31, 2003

### **Hot News!**

#### **McCollum Returns from Iraq**

This week, Rep. Betty McCollum returned from a bipartisan trip to Iraq to assess the status of security, political transition and U.S. reconstruction efforts. The group also met with officials in neighboring Jordan and Turkey.

"Iraq is still a war zone, and we need an honest assessment on the situation from the White House," said McCollum. "The reality on the ground in Iraq indicates that there is a lot of work to do to restore stability and bring our troops home safely."

McCollum voted against the president's \$87 billion request for Iraq, because the White House has failed to plan for post-war Iraq, including the political transition or an exit strategy for U.S. troops.

"This \$87 billion request is a blank check without a plan. We need a plan that transfers power to the Iraqi people and an exit strategy to get our soldiers home safely. The administration needs to take leadership of this situation and change the tone. The president must be realistic, and he must work with Congress and the international community. Failure is not an option," said McCollum.

McCollum is a member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights.

Rep. McCollum will join students and other guests at the **College of St. Catherine** next **Monday, November 3, 2003** for a brown bag lunch discussion about the current situation in Iraq, and to share her recent experiences.

Date: **Monday, November 3, 2003**  
Time: **12:15 - 1:30 pm**  
Location: **College of St. Catherine  
Room 361 Coeur de Catherine**



*Congresswoman McCollum met with soldiers from the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in Mosul, Iraq. McCollum was impressed by the extensive work of 101st Division soldiers in reaching out to the area surrounding the northern city. "These soldiers are working hard to engage the local people in culturally sensitive ways," said McCollum. "They are respecting the local culture and getting proven results that are evident through less tension and greater civility."*

#### **Update on Public Education**

Join Rep. Betty McCollum for an **Education Town Hall Meeting**. Every child deserves access to good public schools, excellent teachers and an opportunity to learn in a safe, healthy and supportive environment.

On **Saturday, November 1 at 1:30pm**, McCollum will convene an open discussion about our schools and how we can work together to make the education of our children a priority for our nation.

Date: **Saturday, November 1, 2003**  
Time: **1:30 - 2:30 pm**  
Location: **Shoreview City Hall and Community Center  
City Council Chambers  
4600 Victoria Street N, Shoreview**

For additional information regarding these events, or to request special accommodations, please call 651-224-9191.

**Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)**

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